

**South Dakota National Guard
Public Affairs Office**

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PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

ATTENTION EDITORS: Please help our office disseminate information to the public by announcing this significant public service event in your publication or broadcast.

Retiree and Veteran Benefits Summit to be held in Aberdeen and other South Dakota communities

RAPID CITY, S.D. – The South Dakota National Guard will host a Retiree and Veteran Benefits Summit in Aberdeen from 6 to 9 p.m. on Monday, July 14, at the Aberdeen Army National Guard Armory. The intent of the meeting is to encourage veterans of all branches of services; active duty, Reserve and National Guard; and retirees from the South Dakota National Guard to attend and have questions answered regarding services, benefits and entitlements.

The summit will also update South Dakota Army National Guard retirees on the recent transformation of the National Guard and the Guard Recruiting Assistance Program.

The format for the summit will include brief presentations followed by opportunities for attendees to meet individually with representatives to discuss specific questions and concerns such as TRICARE, retirement and survivor benefits as well as veteran entitlements.

In order to reach as many retirees and veterans as possible, the South Dakota National Guard's long-term goal is to conduct a similar meeting in every community where there is a National Guard armory.

Retiree and Veteran Benefits Summits are scheduled for the following dates and locations:

- Aberdeen: 6 to 9 p.m., Monday, July 14, at the Aberdeen Army National Guard Armory. Point of contact is Sgt. 1st Class Mike Wiley at (605) 626-2270.

- Brookings: 6 to 9 p.m., Tuesday, July 15, at the SDSU ROTC Building. Point of contact is Maj. Bob Dejong at (605) 696-5401.
- Sioux Falls: 6 to 9 p.m., Wednesday, July 16, at the Sioux Falls Army National Guard Armory. Point of contact is Lt. Col. Rod Burmeister at (605) 357-2901.
- Mitchell: 6 to 9 p.m., Thursday, July 17, at the Mitchell Army National Guard Armory. Point of contact is Sgt. 1st Class Darwyn Persson at (605) 995-1641.

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FOR MORE INFORMATION, please contact Maj. Orson Ward at (605) 737-6721 cell (605) 431-8753, or Cynthia Porter at (605) 737-6669 cell (605) 431-6114.